

Stevenson House,
West Springfield, Pennsylvania
Erie Co.

HABS No. Pa.-55

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PHOTOGRAPHS,
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District No. 5-Pennsylvania

Reduced Copies of Measured Drawings

Historic American Buildings Survey,
Karl E. Morrison, District Officer
319 Marine Bank Bldg., Erie, Pennsylvania

STEVENSON HOUSE
North Springfield, Erie County, Pennsylvania

Owner.

William Hagenlocher.

Date of Erection

Rear 1824 front 1844.

Architect

Unknown.

Builder

Unknown.

Present Condition

Good.

Number of Stories:

Two, with attic and basement.

Materials of Construction:

Sandstone, native woods, walnut, cherry, maple, and oak, grilled panels and fan, old glass.

Other Existing Records:

Court House, Erie County Atlas of 1865 and 1876.

STEVENSON HOUSE

North Springfield, Erie County, Pennsylvania

The Stevenson House is a strictly colonial structure located at Springfield township on Route 99, about four and one-half miles northwest of North Girard, near the Girard township line, south of the New York Central Railroad. It is a two story (with attic and basement) house in the original building, and a one story frame structure at the rear. It is all of frame construction, and the foundation wall laid up of sandstone is of various widths.

The house faces the south with a central doorway flanked by two windows on each side of it on the first floor, and five windows on the second story. The original sash have been replaced by modern two-light sash at the front of the house. The colonial doorway is reached by a flight of three wooden steps to a platform of matched flooring, with a three inch rise to the door sill. Wooden half-columns of Grecian Ionic influence are on each side of the door, with two wooden quarter-columns at the corners of the opening, separated by panels set three-quarters of the height with old wavy glass and lead gridded work, the remainder being paneled in wood. The door is an eight-panel door. The panels, of various sizes, protected by a fancy projecting wooden ledge or doorway shelf. Over this shelf or plate is an elliptical arch with a lead-gridded transom, fan-shaped, lined with old glass. At each point of intersection in the gridded work, and with the frame, a lead five-pointed star is used as an ornament, and directly in the lower center of transom a lead American eagle guards the entrance.

A paneled cornice encircles the entire old portion of the house with dentil-mouldings on the two ends of the house, enclosing in a triangle the elliptical old glass windows with lead-gridded work. The roof is of tin with standing seams. The wide central hallway, opening from the front to the rear of the older portion of the house, has a flooring of oak boards, four inches wide. There are four doors opening from this hall to the various rooms. One of these doors leads to the living room, one to the dining room, one to the front entrance and one to the rear of the house. The stairway, rising at one side, has a snail-shell lower rail ending. The treads and risers are of walnut, while the stair-rail and balusters are of cherry. In the dining room is a recessed cupboard, enclosed with fluted mouldings, similar to the mouldings of the doors and windows. The upper part of the cupboard is enclosed with two doors each set with ten lights of glass. The lower portion, which is about one-third of the height, is enclosed by two wooden doors. There are five bedrooms, a hall and numerous clothes presses on the second floor. The attic has an enclosed stair-well, one half of this floor being unfinished, the other half being used as a store-room. The basement is one large room, with entrance both from the inside and outside of the house. One thing that is quite noticeable is the thickness of the walls of the older portion of the house indicating log under-structure; also the paneled wainscoting.

STEVENSON HOUSE

Historically there is absolutely no record of this house in any Erie County History, or of the family who occupied it; however, what follows is history. It has been constructed on records taken from the Erie County Court records.

This house was the residence of John Stevenson who died July 3, 1870 leaving a widow Margaret-----, and four minor children. As most of the settlers of North Springfield and vicinity were from the different counties in eastern Pennsylvania, it is not presumptuous to suppose that John Stevenson was descendant of the John Stevenson of Bedford County, Pennsylvania, who was one of the first commissioners of that county, together with Robert Hanna and Dorsey Penticost, April 16, 1771.

The four children of John and Margaret Stevenson were: Rhumina A., Lemuel Boyd; Elizabeth Jane, and Cassius Lincoln. At the November term of court 1871 the records state that Rhumina was not a minor but that the other three children were. The guardian for these children was J. Robert Hall, Esq., and the administrators of the estate were John's wife, Margaret and J. or I. Newton Miller. Margaret Stevenson died about January 18, 1892, according to court records.

In records of the August term of court 1871, a petition sets forth "Three hundred acres of land in said township (Springfield) on which is the Mansion House." The Mansion House was at one time a hotel, used in 1884 as a boarding house. The land upon which it stands is land of the Pennsylvania Population Company who conveyed it October 31, 1811 to Robert Bowne.

John Stevenson obtained the land sometime before 1844 when the front of the Stevenson residence or house was built. After the death of John Stevenson, his widow was compelled to sell it to E. B. Tarr (court records) who subsequently March 30, 1875 re-sold it to Lemuel B. Stevenson (the son of John) for six thousand four hundred dollars.

U. P. Rossiter, assignee of L. Boyd Stevenson in trust for benefit of creditors sold it to J. Robert Hall. December 19, 1893, J. Robert Hall sold to John H. Hall who left it to Eliza B. Holliday in trust with James Miles Hall trustee Feb. 23, 1911 proved. January 31, 1923 James Miles Hall sold to William Hagenlocher. There is a print of this house in the Erie County Atlas 1865 published by F. W. Beers, A. D. Ellis and G. G. Soule, and in the Atlas of 1876 dimensions of the farm are given.

There is no record, as stated previously, of any historic incidents or personages connected with this house.

Amie Scott Baxter

Approved

Karl Emerson Dittky
Sept. 29, 1936.

Rev. Oct. 8, '36 THW